

Minutes of George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans' Home Advisory Board Meeting 1-26-12

Meeting was called to order at 1500 hours by Bob Jones the Advisory Board Chair. The following individuals were in attendance:

Bob Jones, Chair
Jim Kopecky, Vice Chair
Frank Maughan
Jeremy Taylor
Fasi Filiaga
Judy Lemmons
Dennis Howland
Norm Nelson
Art Keeley, Resident Representative
Terry Schow, Executive Director, Utah Department of Veterans Affairs
Kim Wixon, State Officer, Staff to the Advisory Board
Kelly Snowball, Nursing Home Administrator, Avalon

Dennis McFall, Susan Thornock and Bob Ramos were excused.

Welcome and Introduction

Bob Jones welcomed everyone to the Advisory Board Meeting at 1500 hours.

State Officer Report:

Kim briefed on six projects currently in process at the OVH.

1. The mailroom is being remodeled to become a display area. Utah Correctional Industries is doing the work. They are approximately 50% completed.
2. The Honor Wall is moving forward with bids coming in.
3. Kim has begun receiving bids on the pavilion/gazebo. An engineering class from WSU is considering taking on this project as a class.
4. Kelly Snowball has started the procurement process to purchase the nameplates.
5. Security cameras are being installed in the OVH. They are approximately 35% completed.
6. Aquariums are being researched for purchase. One in the lobby and one in the memory care unit.
7. The board decided not to play taps at the death of a resident. (Thank you again.)
8. Kim briefed that he comes to the home after a death to talk to the resident's friends rather than to let them find out other ways. We also take the body out the back door as discretely as possible.
9. Kim was asked to look into installing convex mirrors at blind corners.

Avalon Report:

Kelly read an email from the family of a departed veteran. She was very complimentary of the service she received here.

Kelly stated that OVH had been 100% occupancy for 16 of 26 days of January. Terry asked for a number of residents per day rather than the CMS information.

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Kelly gave a brief outline of the clinical and financial standing of the OVH. Details will be provided to any board member who requests such.

Terry explained that we have requested 4 additional Medicaid beds from the Utah Department of Health.

Kelly explained for the second year in a row, we have been able to lower the cost to the veterans.

Kelly informed the board that Avalon has a new program to allow veterans to go to other Avalon homes at a highly reduced rate until the veteran can move into OVH.

Terry mentioned that the WSU Nursing School is now giving a two point preference to veteran applicants.

Kelly informed the board that three OVH nurses have attended wound care certification course. This is a very specialized certification.

Additionally, nearly all staff in the Memory Care community has been certified to work in the memory care area.

Terry asked Kelly to check if the VAMC had any training of CNAs or TRTs that would help alleviate the costs.

Frank Maughan agreed to contact the Standard Examiner (Charlie) to discuss the economic impact of the OVH.

Judy L. asked if we should have a member of the Wahlen family on the Advisory Board. Terry said we would reach out to them to see if there is any interest.

Old Business.

Kim will continue to find lower estimates for the "bullpen" security remodel.

New Business.

Kim announced the surprise birthday party for Mrs. Melba Wahlen on Thursday Feb 2, 2012 at 1500. The board is invited.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2012 1500 hours.

Executive Committee Meeting

December minutes were approved.

Kim discussed the hold-back, restricted and non-restricted funds.

Kim was asked to determine the lag time between billing the VA and the receipt of the per diem.

Kim and Terry explained the process VA uses for paying medications.

Terry briefed the status of the other two veteran's homes.

Adm. Taylor asked if any monies from the OVH hold back account are used for the other two homes. If so, please inform the board.

Dennis H. discussed fundraisers conducted by the VFW for the OVH.

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Kim requested approval to place a brick in the VTT memorial area for the Ogden Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty. The board approved.

Frank mentioned that the Military Order of the Purple Heart will be giving an award to the fallen Police Officer.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned at 1645.